Using Program Evaluation in Federally Funded Programs
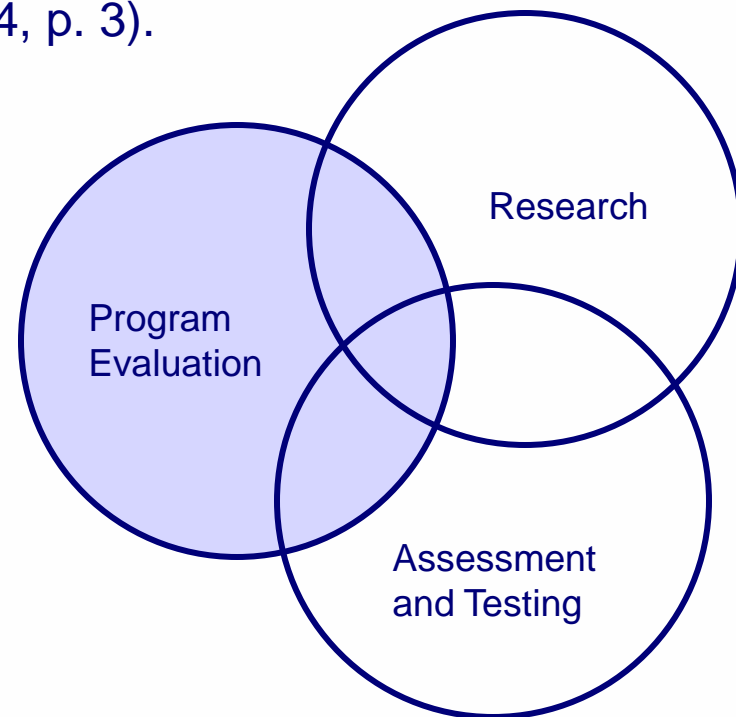
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How does program evaluation fit?

▸ Program evaluation

▸ Assessment and testing

– Assessment is the systematic gathering of data about a person's ability, knowledge or performance in a given domain (adapted from Brown, 2004, p. 3).

▸ Research

Research

Program Evaluation

Assessment and Testing

What are the purposes of this session?

▶ Why?

▶ What?

▶ How?

▶ What next?

Why evaluate language in programs?

▸ Needs assessment

▸ Process evaluation

▸ Outcomes evaluation

(Fitzpatrick, Sanders, & Worthen, 2004)

What do we know about language programs?

▸ Research on language learning

▸ Study abroad research

▸ University of Hawaii work

▸ Other

What do we know about language learning?

▸ Length

▸ Quality

▸ Differences among languages

How long does it take to learn a language?

▸ Development of functional communicative ability requires extended uninterrupted study

▸ Professional levels of proficiency
 − Full-time adult (government) learners = 600-2200 hours
 − University majors = ~450 (10 courses)

 Traditional university majors are unlikely to graduate "ready to work" in the language

What is most important in language learning?

- ▸ Competence and skill of teacher
- ▸ Small classes

Does it take longer to learn certain languages?

- ▸ Yes!

- ▸ Languages (and cultures) that are very different from English take longer to learn for English speakers than Western European languages.

What do we know about study abroad?

- Language gain
- Cultural gains
- Length
- Home-stay
- Target language classes
- Maximizing the experience

What do we know about language program evaluation?

▸ Post-secondary evaluation
- University of Hawaii project

▸ K-12 program evaluation

▸ Process

▸ Outcomes

▸ Strengths

▸ Limitations

(Fitzpatrick, Sanders, & Worthen, 2004)

How can we continue to evaluate?

▸ Testing
  – *Reporting outcomes*
  – *Sharing information*

What are the next steps?

‣ Needs assessments

‣ Process studies

‣ Outcomes studies

‣ Reporting and sharing results

Thank you!